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## AN INJURY TO BUSINESS.

Mayor Gaynor was recently quoted as proclaiming New York to be the best governed and managed city in the world. It is difficult to understand eulogy in the face of the present up-torn and filthy state of the uptown avenues and streets, the taxicab legalized robbery, etc. Especially is it difficult to comprehend the Mayor's self-satisfaction, when one contemplates upper Fifth Avenue—the home of the Fine Art business in this city, and the Mecca of art lovers the country over.

The conditions that have prevailed on this portion of the chief avenue of the metropolis the past six weeks, and which still prevail, with every evidence of long continuance, are simply disgraceful, and have resulted and are resulting in serious loss of business to the Art galleries and stores and those of other lines of business on the thoroughfare.

It is an understood law in Paris, for example, that all the principal boulevards and streets, especially those at all devoted to business, and to which repairs, etc., must at times be made, shall be in complete order by Sept. 1, or when the Autumn business begins. And yet the New York officials have seemingly chosen just the most busy period of the year—that when its citizens, who support the Fifth Avenue business and other uptown thoroughfares, return from the summer vacation, and when business should be at its best—to make the streets and especially Fifth Avenue almost impassable.

Was Mayor Gaynor joking? Is there to be no relief from these intolerable conditions.

## THE SELLER'S OATH.

The two letters from valued correspondents—the first from Dr. Stillwell, the well known collector, addressed to this journal, and the second from the Ehrich Galleries, which has been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, emphasizes, it would seem, the advisability of some change in the so-called "Seller's Oath," now exacted by the Government from all purchasers of pictures more than twenty years and art objects more than one hundred years old, when imported.

As it now stands, the exaction of this oath, with the difficulty of securing a Consul's signature and affirmation, and the almost impossibility of obtaining at all accurate or truthful testimony as to the history or origin of old pictures and art objects, is, as Dr. Stillwell points out, virtually a premium on dishonesty. If we are not mistaken the framing and exaction of the "Seller's Oath" were products of the activities of the American Free Art League of Boston, three years ago, when and largely through the same agency, the present absurd and inconsistent Art Tariff was produced. We trust that the Secretary of the Treasury, now that the imperfections and bad effects of the "Seller's Oath" have been so clearly and well presented to him, will take measures to, at least, modify its provisions, and we await such action with confidence.

Baron Edmund de Rothschild has purchased for his private collection the famous assemblage of 351 wood engravings by Albrecht Durer, which M. Danton of Paris acquired for some \$26,298 at the recent Huth sale.

The Worcester Art Museum has recently secured by purchase a superior and characteristic portrait by Goya, an Archbishop, from the V. G. Fischer Galleries, New York. The painting was formerly in the collection of Marquis de la Vega and is mentioned in Von Loga's life of Goya.

## DUVEEN TRIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Benjamin Duvéen, who was indicted last Winter, with other members of the firm, for undervaluation of imported art objects, and trial of whose case was postponed, was called for trial Monday last. He was absent and his counsel, Mr. John M. Stanchfield, stated that his client was detained in England at the bedside of his dying mother. U. S. District Attorney Wise asked that the defendant's bail of \$50,000 be forfeited, but upon the statement of Mr. Stanchfield, Judge Hough of the Circuit Court decided that in view of the indeterminate adjournment granted by Judge Martin last April, for further pleading, the Court would not declare the bail forfeited, and fixed the date for pleading peremptorily for Nov. 13.

## A DAMAGED TAPESTRY.

It has been discovered that the silk woven portrait of George Washington, presented by the people of Lyons, France, to this city during the last century, and which hung in the Aldermen's chamber, is seriously damaged. The authorities will take steps to have the picture restored.

## OBITUARY.

## Louis R. Ehrich.

Louis R. Ehrich, the well and widely known art dealer, connoisseur, political and economical writer and speaker, and President of the Ehrich Galleries, No. 463 Fifth Ave., who, as was announced last Saturday in the *Art News*, was to have sailed that day from London, for this city, sailed, alas, for a further shore on Monday morning last. He died at that time in the St. Ermins Hotel in London, where, after his return from his annual trip to the Continent, he was sojourning for a time with Mrs. Ehrich, before departing for home.

The news of his peaceful death from a sudden heart failure, which came by cable to the galleries on Monday morning, followed a previous cable received on the Friday before to the effect that his sailing had been postponed, owing to an attack of asthma. The same cable requested that his second son, Walter, should go to London, and although the latter was in Rochester, N. Y., at the time he succeeded in reaching here in time to sail on the St. Paul last Saturday.

So unexpected was the announcement of his death, as he had been in good health all summer, and had looked forward hopefully to his return, that it came as a great shock not only to his family, but to a wide circle of friends, while it was received with an unusual expression of sorrow and regret in the Fifth Avenue Galleries and art circles in general.

In the passing of Louis R. Ehrich there is lost a most kindly and gracious personality, a richly stored mind, a rarely fine character and a devoted husband and father. His death comes therefore with a deep sense of personal loss to those like ourselves who, while not of his family, had the opportunity to well know and esteem him, and who can therefore the more sensibly and keenly appreciate what his loss means to those nearer and dearer to him.

There is a pathetic side to his death at this time—a period in his life, when after struggling for many years with frail health and financial reverses and since his establishment of the galleries some seven years ago, with the jealousies and enmities which a new comer in the overcrowded art dealers' field may expect—he had by the sincerity and honesty of his character, his personal qualities and charm, won over even those who most opposed him, and had also gained a deserved place among the leading metropolitan art dealers, and good financial success.

Mr. Ehrich had an unusual knowledge of the art of earlier times, and no art collector or dealer had the early schools and painters at command like himself. His range of knowledge, derived from long study and omnivorous reading on this subject, was almost phenomenal, and his memory for names and dates was extraordinary. He leaves the sweetest and tenderest of memories to his family and friends, and of him may most appropriately be recalled the epitaph on the old Greek gentleman's tomb:

"Here wrapped in happy slumber Cleon lies,  
Asleep, not dead—the good man never dies."

To Mr. Ehrich's sons, who will carry on his well founded business the sympathy and support of the trade and of a host of friends will be extended.

Mr. Ehrich was born in Albany on Jan. 23, 1849, the son of Joseph and Rebecca Spörborg Ehrich. He was graduated at Yale and took his Master's degree there in



1869, studying for one year afterwards at the University of Berlin. In 1874 he married Miss Henrietta Minzesheimer. From 1878 to 1885 he traveled in Europe, studying old paintings, and for a part of that time he was a member of the dry goods firm of Ehrich Brothers, from which he resigned in 1886. He lived in Colorado Springs, Col., where he became prominent in politics for many years and was the only delegate from the Rocky Mountain region to the Gold Democratic Convention in 1896, was a member of the National Committee for Colorado of the Gold Democratic Party, a member of the Executive Committee of the Sound Money League, and temporary Chairman of the Third Party Convention at Indianapolis in 1900. He wrote many books and papers on political and economic questions, among them "The Question of Silver," "A Religion for All Time," "A Cure for Labor Troubles," and made many addresses in defense of the gold standard, of free trade, and of anti-imperialism. These were published widely by the Reform Club, the Anti-Imperialistic League, and the Free Trade League, of which he was President.

With his sons, Harold L. and Walter L. Ehrich, he conducted the Ehrich Galleries to which he brought from Europe many old masterpieces, the gleanings of his annual tours abroad. His collections included examples of all schools—Early English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Flemish—and he was the largest importer of the works of the early Spanish in the country. Last year he sold to Mr. Henry E. Huntington a Velasquez, "Portrait of an Ecclesiastic," and furnished paintings to the Metropolitan Museum, the Worcester Museum, the Boston Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, and the collections of John G. Johnson of Philadelphia and Archer M. Huntington, the latter of whom has placed many of his paintings in the museum of the Hispanic Society.

Mr. Ehrich was a member of the Yale Club, and of many historical associations. Besides his two sons, who will continue to conduct the galleries, he leaves his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Leah Ehrich Wyckoff, widow of Professor Wyckoff of Princeton, and Mrs. M. Sanford Weil.

## James Aumonier.

James Aumonier recently died in London. He was especially noted for his landscapes and his works were shown at many exhibitions. Among his most popular subjects were "An Englishman's Cottage Home," bought by Sir Mewton Mapes in 1873, "The Black Mountains" and "Sheep Washing in Sussex." In 1876 the Council of the Royal Manchester Institution awarded him a gold medal for the "Toilers of the Field."

## Raymond Knight.

Raymond Knight, youngest son of Ridgway Knight, died at Poissy, near Paris, last Sunday. He was a victim of insomnia, and it is thought took an overdose of a sleeping potion. He was born at Poissy, but when he came of age declared his American citizenship.